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# **MPO Policy Committee**

Agenda
January 8, 2009—10:00 a.m.

Cook County Conference Room 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Sears Tower Chicago, Illinois

#### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

10:00 a.m.

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes - October 9, 2008

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

#### 4.0 Agency Reports

- 4.1 Council of Mayors' Report
- 4.2 CMAP Report

## 5.0 Unified Work Program

Preliminary work developing the FY10 Unified Work Program has begun. The Committee will be updated on the process.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Informational** 

#### 6.0 Revised CMAQ Procedures

The CMAQ Project Selection Committee has discussed many strategies for creating a more effective programming process to assure that the region gets the congestion reduction and air quality improvements of projects more quickly and does not have a large amount of unobligated funding in danger of being lost to the region. A draft of the recommended programming revisions is attached.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Informational** 

# 7.0 Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway

The Surface Transportation Board has approved, with conditions, the acquisition of the EJ&E Railway by the CN. The CMAP Board had thorough discussions debating the merits

of the acquisition and despite their best efforts, they were unable to reach a consensus regarding a position either supporting or opposing the acquisition. However, during their discussion, they identified a number of reasons supporting both sides of this very important issue and sent a letter to both the STB and the CN describing their deliberations.

The Committee will be briefed on their discussions and the final ruling by the STB. ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

## 8.0 Economic Recovery Package

The CMAP Board has passed a set of principles that would guide the implementation of a federal economic recovery package. The most recent proposal discussed has grown to \$850 billion. Still to be decided is how much will be allocated to transportation infrastructure and how will the money be distributed? A prominent theme of all discussions is the "Use it or lose it" stipulation that will require recipients to spend the funding within 90-180 days. How the funding is distributed within the state, and how projects are analyzed and selected is also unknown at this time. Congress is expected to act quickly on this issue and have a bill ready for the new president to sign in late January.

The Policy Committee will be asked to review the CMAP Board principles and discuss their impact on transportation investments.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion** 

## 9.0 Transportation Committee Membership

9.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee
The Policy Committee bylaws state that the committee will appoint one of its
members or alternates as the Chair and one of its members or alternates as the
Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee for calendar year 2009.
ACTION REQUESTED: Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the
Transportation Committee

#### 9.2 Business Leaders for Transportation

Per the MPO Policy Committee bylaws, the Transportation Committee members are determined by the MPO Policy Committee. A current member is Business Leaders for Transportation, led by the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), Chicago Metropolis 2020 and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. With the dissolution of the Business Leaders for Transportation, MPC has requested that the member of the Transportation Committee be changed to the Metropolitan Planning Council.

ACTION REQUESTED: Remove Business Leaders for Transportation from the Transportation Committee and add the Metropolitan Planning Council.

#### 10.0 Other Business

#### 11.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the exact time for the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

# 12.0 Next Meeting – March 12, 2009

# 13.0 Adjournment

## **MPO Policy Committee Members:**

Rita Athas	Kenneth Koehler	Steve Schlickman
Martin G. Buehler	R. A. Kwasneski	Jeffery Schielke
Thomas G. Byrne	John McCarthy	Milton R. Sees
Tom Cuculich	Karen McConnaughay	Marisol Simon
Bob Davidson	Joseph Moreno	Norman R. Stoner
Elliott Hartstein	Philip A. Pagano	Larry Walsh
Ron Huberman	Michael Payette	Rocco Zucchero